



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### TEST CASE, WARNING FROM JUDGE HIGHLIGHT CONVICTION OF FEDERAL GAME-LAW VIOLATORS

A test case upholding a recent order by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes and a stern reprimand from the presiding judge warning all game-law offenders that he would jail future violators if necessary, highlighted the recent conviction of 38 game-law violators appearing in Federal courts at Lake Charles, Louisiana. The 38 offenders, who had been apprehended by Federal game agents in cooperation with State officers, pleaded guilty. Thirty-seven received a fine of \$25 each, while one was sentenced to serve 15 days in jail, officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service reported.

Fifteen alleged violators, who were to have appeared for arraignment at the same time, failed to do so and were placed under \$250 bonds each for appearance at the next term of the Federal court at Lake Charles.

Of particular interest to the conservation agency was the conviction of B. C. Morgan, of Jennings, Louisiana, for killing two purple gallinules. This is the first time such a conviction has been made in Louisiana and is looked upon as a test case of a recent order issued by Secretary Ickes permitting farmers and their bona fide employees or tenants to shoot purple gallinules when the birds destroy rice crops. Secretary Ickes' order at the same time prohibited hunters from killing this species under the pretense of assisting the farmers.

U. S. game management agents of the Fish and Wildlife Service declared Morgan was a hunter and under Secretary Ickes' order had no legal right to shoot purple gallinules. Judge Benjamin C. Dawkins upheld the Interior Secretary's order by convicting the defender and fining him \$25.

Judge Dawkins issued a stern lecture and warning to the game-law violators. Voicing strong disapproval of so-called sportsmen who fail to comply with regulations that have been adopted to conserve wild game for the enjoyment of all present and future outdoor enthusiasts, the Judge concluded his remarks by declaring that he would set a minimum of \$50 (in fines) for persons pleading guilty in such (game law) cases. "And if that doesn't stop it," he said, "I will give jail sentences to compel compliance with the law."

At the same term Judge Gaston Porterie, presiding in Federal court at Lake Charles, sentenced Eldridge Navarre, of Crowley, Louisiana, to 15 days in jail for killing a mourning dove out of season.

Judge Dawkins sentenced the following, in addition to Morgan, to pay fines of \$25 each:

Dr. James M. Thompson, of Muskogee, Oklahoma, for killing geese in excess of the daily possession limit, with the aid of an automobile, and for trespassing on a national wildlife refuge; William Deshotel, of Jennings, Louisiana, for killing a little blue heron; and Charles Childer, of Orange, Texas, for hunting with a gun capable of holding more than three shells.

Fred and Abel Conners, both of Creole, Louisiana, for hunting and killing night herons; Jesse O. Griffith, of Vinton, Louisiana, and Jay Wright, of Hackberry, Louisiana, for trespassing on a wildlife refuge; Lee O. Oliver, of Egan, Louisiana, for killing geese with a gun capable of holding more than three shells; Buster F. Sedlock, of Cameron, Louisiana, for exceeding the possession limit on geese; Honore P.

Dugas, of Opalousas, Louisiana, for trespassing on refuge; Berton LaBove, of Cameron, for hunting after 4 p.m., and without a duck stamp; Charles J. Cole, Jr., and Edgar L. Morgan, both of Greensburg, for hunting and killing wild ducks before sunrise;

Joseph LeBouff and Eddie Simon, both of Morse, Louisiana, for hunting and killing wild ducks over live decoy ducks; Clinton F. Quebedeau and William C. Heinen, both of Church Point, for hunting and killing wild ducks over live decoy ducks and for hunting before sunrise; Richard Sonnier and Rodney J. Broussard, both of Breaux Bridge, for shooting and killing wild ducks before sunrise; L. J. Kershaw, of Lake Arthur, for hunting and killing wild ducks without a duck stamp; Robert A., Arthur L., and Clarence G. Schultz, and Fred W. Miller, all of Bell City, for hunting ducks after 4 p.m.; and Haskell Porter, Andrew Rayon, and Avery Baker, all of Jennings, for hunting ducks after 4 p.m.

The following violators from Lake Charles, Louisiana, were also fined \$25 each:

Clyde Smith, trespassing on national wildlife refuge; Frank Gillespie, killing one dove and one meadow lark; Laddie Lee, killing a night heron; Arast Celestan, and Columbus Dilquale, and Hosey Stevens, hunting and killing night herons, little blue herons, and egrets; Fred Foggin, hunting and killing geese with unplugged shotgun; and Eber Hoffpaur, hunting and killing one fulvous tree duck and one king rail.

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